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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/611,639	07/01/2003	Jin Li	MS305346.1 / MSFTP483US	1386
27195 7590 03/07/2008 AMIN. TUROCY & CALVIN, LLP 24TH FLOOR, NATIONAL CITY CENTER 1900 EAST NINTH STREET CLEVELAND, OH 44114			EXAMINER KENDALL, CHUCK O	
			ART UNIT 2192	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 03/07/2008	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/611,639

Applicant(s)

LI ET AL.

Examiner

CHUCK O. KENDALL

Art Unit

2192

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to application filed 12/06/07.
2. Claims 1 – 29 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 1 – 21, 23 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims disclose a system of software components only and hence claim language fall under software per se. Software per se claims are not considered statutory subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1 – 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Beaumont et al. US 2004/0073511 A1.

Regarding claims 1, 21, and 25, Beaumont discloses a system facilitating rule composition comprising:

a rule composer that in response to a user input facilitates at least one of creation and modification of a rule, the rule composer further receiving information associated with the at least one of creation and modification of the rule based, and a display component that displays hierarchical information associated with the rule [0123] also see [0083].

Beaumont doesn't expressly disclose wherein the rule base is at least in part, upon natural language inline editing. However, Burke in an analogous art and similar configuration of composing rules in an object oriented language environment discloses creating and modification of class instances as well as user defined classes and rule sequences for a particular language (1:55 - 2: 15).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Beaumont and Burke, because it would enable devising a rule set for a particular object oriented language as suggested by Burke above.

Regarding claim 2, the system of claim 1, further comprising an input component that facilitates receipt of information associated with the at least one of creation and modification of the rule [Beaumont 0015] also see Burke FIG. 2.

Regarding claim 3, the system of claim 1, the rule being a business rule [0015].

Regarding claim 4, the system of claim 1, the rule being based, at least in part, upon a parameterized format string definition [0015, see configure, and code packets].

Regarding claim 5, the system of claim 1, the rule being based, at least in part, upon a composable vocabulary definition [0010].

Regarding claim 6, the system of claim 1, the display component facilitating a user interface comprising a first splitting panel and a second splitting panel [0084, shows dividing the transaction].

Regarding claim 7, the system of claim 6, wherein the first splitting panel facilitates building a condition associated with the rule [0220, see block rules].

Regarding claim 8, the system of claim 6, wherein the second splitting panel facilitates building an action associated with the rule [0220].

Regarding claim 9, the system of claim 1, wherein editing focus can be transferred from a node associated with the node visually accentuated to represent a parent-child relationship [0181, see hierarchy and levels].

Regarding claim 10, the system of claim 1, the display component facilitating a user interface comprising a property window that displays a property of a node of the hierarchical information [0181, see hierarchy and levels].

Regarding claim 11, the system of claim 1, the rule comprising a condition [0220].

Regarding claim 12, the system of claim 11, the condition comprising at least one of a logical and, a logical not and a logical or [0096, see logical instructions].

Regarding claim 13, the system of claim 1, the display component facilitating display of a context menu associated with at least one of an action and a condition associated with the rule [0096, see conditions].

Regarding claim 14, the system of claim 1, the display component facilitating a user interface comprising at least one of adjust splitting panels, a drag and drop operation, and, a clipboard operation [0173, shows a copy button and Examiner interprets inclusion of a clip board to be inherent where copying is being performed as the instructions would have to be written somewhere in memory].

Regarding claim 15, the system of claim 1, the rule composer comprising a rule editor and a policy explorer [0045].

Regarding claim 16, the system of claim 1, the rule composer facilitating editing of a parameter having a range [0045].

Regarding claim 17, the system of claim 1, the rule composer facilitating editing of an unconstrained parameter [0045].

Regarding claim 18, the system of claim 1, the rule composer facilitating editing of a parameter having a value in a set of values [0045 and 0058].

Regarding claim 19, the system of claim 1, the rule composer facilitating type compatibility checking [0109, see validating and compatible].

Regarding claim 20, the system of claim 1, the rule composer facilitating error checking and providing error information to the display component if an error is found [0080].

Regarding claim 22, a method facilitating rule composition comprising:

receiving a request to modify and/or create a rule [0107]; and

Beaumont doesn't expressly disclose wherein the rule base is at least in part, upon natural language inline editing. However, Burke in an analogous art and similar configuration of composing rules in an object oriented language environment discloses creating and modification of class instances as well as user defined classes and rule sequences for a particular language (1:55 - 2: 15).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Beaumont and Burke, because it would enable devising a rule set for a particular object oriented language as suggested by Burke above.

Regarding claim 23, a data packet transmitted between two or more computer components that facilitates rule composition, the data packet comprising:

information associated with a rule,[0107].

Beaumont doesn't expressly disclose wherein the rule base is at least in part, upon natural language inline editing. However, Burke in an analogous art and similar configuration of composing rules in an object oriented language environment discloses creating and modification of class instances as well as user defined classes and rule sequences for a particular language (1:55 - 2: 15).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Beaumont and Burke, because it would enable devising a rule set for a particular object oriented language as suggested by Burke above.

Regarding claim 24, a computer readable medium storing computer executable component of a system facilitating rule composition comprising:

a rule composer that in response to a user input facilitates at least one of creation and modification of a rule,

a display component that displays hierarchical information associated with the rule [0123].

Beaumont doesn't expressly disclose wherein the rule base is at least in part, upon natural language inline editing. However, Burke in an analogous art and similar configuration of composing rules in an object oriented language environment discloses creating and modification of class instances as well as user defined classes and rule sequences for a particular language (1:55 - 2: 15).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Beaumont and Burke, because it would enable devising a rule set for a particular object oriented language as suggested by Burke above.

Regarding claim 26, a policy explorer region that displays hierarchical information associated with a policy, the policy comprising at least one rule [0045]; and,

a rule editor region that display hierarchical information associate with the rule [0083].

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Beaumont doesn't expressly disclose wherein the rule base is at least in part, upon natural language inline editing. However, Burke in an analogous art and similar configuration of composing rules in an object oriented language environment discloses creating and modification of class instances as well as user defined classes and rule sequences for a particular language (1:55 - 2: 15).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Beaumont and Burke, because it would enable devising a rule set for a particular object oriented language as suggested by Burke above.

Regarding claim 27, the user interface of claim 26, the rule editor region comprising a condition region that displays information associated with a condition associated with the rule [0220, see block rules].

Regarding claim 28, the user interface of claim 26, the rule editor region comprising an action region that displays information associated with an action associated with the rule [0220, see block rules].

Regarding claim 29, the user interface of claim 26, further comprising a property condition region that displays information associated with a property of a node of the hierarchical information associated with the policy [0181].

Response to Arguments

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Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 29 are have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chuck Kendall whose telephone number is 571-272-3698. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00 am - 6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Dam can be reached on 571-272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Chuck O Kendall/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2192